GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2858
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Quality Education in Government Schools
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of education being imparted in Government schools is lower than that of private schools;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government has made any assessment in this regard;
(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
(e) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve quality of education in Government schools?

Answer

(a) to (e): The Central Government through the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) conducts periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in grade Ⅲ, V, and Ⅷ in Government and Government aided schools in all States and UTs. Four rounds of National Achievement Survey (NAS) have been conducted so far for grade V and three rounds for classes Ⅲ & Ⅷ. These reveal improvement in learning achievement levels of pupils, in identified subjects from first round to fourth round. For the first time in 2015, NAS has been conducted at class X level, for the Government, Government aided and private schools. Since only first round of NAS has been conducted for class X level, it is not possible to comment on the comparative learning achievement or decline of students of Grade X in Government, Government aided and private schools. The NAS survey for class X has revealed that there is heterogeneity in achievement scores within most States and UTs.
The Central Government implements Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) for improvement of elementary and secondary education, respectively.
Under SSA, the State Governments and UT Administrations are supported on several interventions to improve teaching standards, including regular in-service teachers' training, induction training for newly recruited teachers, training of all untrained teachers to acquire professional qualifications through Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode, recruitment of additional teachers for improving pupil-teacher ratios, academic support for teachers through block and cluster resource centres, continuous and comprehensive evaluation system to equip the teacher to measure pupil performance and provide remedial action wherever required, and teacher and school grants for development of appropriate teaching-learning materials, etc. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 specifies statutory duties and responsibilities of teachers and lays down the minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in elementary schools. For the year 2016-17, 10% of the funds under SSA have been clearly earmarked for quality interventions.
Recently, the Central Government has notified Learning Outcomes for all elementary classes which will help teachers and parents to benchmark learning levels of students